WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

No.

Apparatus comprising:

- a substrate;
- a ground plane on the substrate, the ground plane having
- 4 a slot;

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- transmission lines lying over the slot; and
- data processing agents each connected to one of the
- 7 transmission lines.

 \perp 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1/ in which the slot is terminated.

- 3. The apparatus of claim 1 in which the transmission lines are terminated.
- 4. The apparatus of claim 1 in which the slot functions as a main bus trunk when excited.
- 5. The apparatus of claim 1 in which the data processing
- 2 agents comprise processors.
- 1 6. The apparatus of claim 1 in which the data processing
- 2 agents comprise chipsets.
- 7. The apparatus of cl_{aim}^{j} 1 in which the transmission lines
- 2 lie perpendicular to the slot.
- 1 8. The apparatus of claim 1 in which the data processing
- 2 agents comprise signaling circuitry.

A method comprising:

inducing a transient return current on a reference plane
in response to a driving agent sourcing a current onto a first

transmission line, the current being representative of binary

5 data;

and

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6 propagating energy of the transient return current to a

7 slot in the reference plane;

inducing a transient voltage pulse onto a second transmission line connected to a receiving agent when the propagating energy encounters the second transmission line;

generating a binary digital signal in the receiving agent from the transient voltage pulse received on the second transmission line.

_10. A method comprising:

in a bus, sourcing a current being representative of binary data on to a first line;

Inducing a return current on a reference plane; and transferring energy of the return current to a slot in

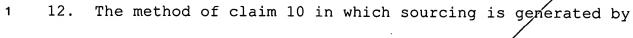
6 the reference plane.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising:

inducing a voltage pulse on to a second transmission line

3 from the energy in the slot; and

- generating a binary digital signal in a receiving agent,
- from the voltage pulse.



- 2 a driving agent.
- 1 13. The method of claim 12 in which the driving agent is a
- processor.
- 1 14. The method of claim 11 in which the receiving agent is a
- 2 processor.
 - 15 Apparatus comprising:
 - a substrate;
 - a ground plane on the substrate, the ground plane having
 - a slot;

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- parallel arranged transmission lines lying over the slot;
- and
- data processing agents each connected to one of the
- 8 parallel arranged transmission lines.
- 1 16. The apparatus of claim 15 in which the slot is
- 2 terminated.
- 1 177. The apparatus of claim 15 in which the parallel
- 2 / transmission lines are terminated.

- 1 18. The apparatus of claim 15 in which the slot functions as
- 2 a main bus trunk when excited.

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- 19. The apparatus of claim 15 in which the data processing
- 2 agents comprise processors
- 1 20. The apparatus of claim 15 in which the data processing
- 2 agents comprise chipsets.
- 3 21. The apparatus of claim 15 in which the data processing
- agents comprise signaling circuitry.